

confused with facts. Therefore, I ask that you reject Senator Cullan's amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. President, obviously, I rise to oppose the Cullan amendment for two particular reasons. First of all, let me explain, and Senator Duis will agree with me, the handout you have from Senator Bereuter in regard to 403 in regard to our funding patterns, the Appropriations Committee has used good judgment in terms of full utilization of federal funds. It appears that LB 403 will be fully funded but we have to do it on the right cycle. That cycle is, of course, that the Congress is continuing to fund 94-142 at an accelerated rate. Two years down the pike we will get \$6 million and then we can back that up. The Appropriations Committee could justify putting the full funding for 403 in now but it would not be wise and adequate use of our current federal funds coming in because we cannot supplant and I think Senator Duis would agree with me that that issue has been cleared up and I want to clear that one up. Secondly, I am currently having, and I don't think I need those signed since my name is at the bottom, I have prepared for you a look at rules and regulations under 94-142 which basically says this, and I present to you the rules and regulations themselves, it will be presented to you. It says that each state shall insure that free appropriate public education is available to all handicapped children, age 3 through 18, within states not later than September 1, 1978. There are some exemptions but, basically, the exemptions do not apply to us, because they say if you are providing any service to any handicapped child in that age bracket, then there would be the requirement that you would service all children that are handicapped. Far be it from me to suggest to you some kind of a federal threat. I advocate the program on the basis of the need that exists and that need I think is reasonably real. I think all of you have received the same thing that I have from various and asunderous people in regard to the issue at hand where there has been a discontinuation of federal programs, where those children are not being served and they come from Sidney to Omaha to North Platte to the other places. So, Mr. President, first of all, I can understand Senator Cullan's concern that the local board ought to make that decision. I submit to you two things. First of all, this Legislature has always been first, has always been in the leadership role in providing services to young people. Of all the records that have been established by this Legislature, that is the record that I am most proud and that is not Frank Lewis. That started long before I was here with Harold Moylan and Herb Duis and certainly that has been carried on. We have an opportunity now to provide those services for these children that I don't think anybody says should not be served. Secondly, I think the facts are clear that we are over the hump in regard to 403. For the first time in six years, I think I can say that we have got that program on the road and straightened out and Senator Kremer said in the committee two years ago, when I refused to vote to put the preschool education bill on the floor and I recommended to the committee, and let me tell you, I took enough heat on that to last a life-